Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 SS-15 SSO-00 CCO-00 ISO-00 L-02 H-02 NSC-05

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SECTO 213

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: REPLY TO LETTER FROM CONGRESSMAN WAXMAN

FOR SOBER (NEA FROM ATHERTON

REF: STATE 55021 (TOSEC 342)

1. FOLLOWING ARE MY REACTIONS TO CHANGES PROPOSED IN WAXMAN LETTER:

A. I HAVE SERIOUS DOUBTS ABOUT PROPOSED INSERT AT BEGINNING OF FOURTH PARAGRAPH. CONGRESSMAN'S QUERY IS DIRECTED SOLELY AT SAUDI ARABIA VISA POLICY, AND I THINK WE OPEN OURSELVES TO CRITICISM OF TRYING TO DODGE THE ISSUE IF WE SHIFT GROUND TO QUESTION OF POLICY OF OTHER ARAB GOVERNMENTS.

B. I SERIOUSLY DOUBT THAT ANY AMERICAN FOREIGN SERVICE

PERSONNEL OF JEWISH FAITH HAVE EVER BEEN ASSIGNED TO SAUDI ARABIA AND THEREFORE BELIEVE WE SHOULD STAY WITH ORIGINAL WORDING OF PARAGRAPH FIVE, WITH FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL SENTENCE: QUOTE: GENERALLY SPEAKING, JEWISH OFFICERS TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE HAVE NOT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SOUGHT ASSIGNMENTS TO COUNTRIES KNOWN TO PRACTICE

DISCRIMINATORY POLICIES AGAINST JEWS. END QUOTE. I
WOULD DROP REMAINDER OF PROPOSED REVISION (QUOTE:
MOREOVER, JEWISH OFFICERS... SUBSTANTIVE POSITIONS IN
ARAB COUNTRIES END QUOTE), WHICH STRIKES ME AS AN
UNSUPPORTABLE GENERALIZATION WHICH WE WOULD HAVE GREAT
DIFFICULTY DEFENDING IF PRESSED. WE HAVE NO WAY OF
KNOWING WHETHER THERE WOULD BE JEWISH OFFICERS WHO
WOULD FIND SERVICE IN ARAB COUNTRIES ATTRACTIVE, AND
WE WOULD CERTAINLY HAVE DIFFICULTY DEFENDING STATEMENT THAT
WITHOUT ARABIC LANGUAGE TRAINING, MANY OFFICERS LACK
PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS TO TAKE ON SUBSTANTIVE
POSITIONS IN ARAB COUNTRIES. I CAN THINK OF TOO MANY
EXAMPLES FROM PERSONAL EXPERIENCE WHICH DISPROVE THAT
STATEMENT.

2. PLEASE ADD FOLLOWING AFTER SECOND SENTENCE OF THIRD PARAGRAPH OF LETTER TO WAXMAN TRANSMITTED IN DAMASCUS 898 (SECTO 126): QUOTE: AS YOU HAVE CORRECTLY NOTED, OUR INTERVENTSIONS HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN A NUMBER OF INSTANCES. UNQUOTE.
KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

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